

Question: Explain the main difference between the Prime Minister and the President.

Answer:

The difference between the Prime Minister and the President in India is based on the country's parliamentary system of governance and their constitutional powers. India follows a parliamentary democracy, where the President is the Head of the State, while the Prime Minister is the Head of the Government.

The following points explain their differences in detail:

1. Position and Role

Aspect	President	Prime Minister
Position	As per the Constitution, the President of India is the constitutional head of the country .	The Prime Minister is the head of the government and holds the real executive power.
Election Process	The President is elected by an Electoral College , which includes Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) from all states and Union Territories.	The Prime Minister is chosen as the leader of the party or coalition that secures a majority in the Lok Sabha (House of the People) after general elections.
Tenure	The President serves a 5-year term .	The Prime Minister also has a 5-year term , but they remain in office as long as they have a majority in Lok Sabha .

2. Powers and Functions

Powers	President	Prime Minister
Executive Powers	All executive powers of the country are vested in the President, but they are exercised only on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.	The real executive powers are held by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.
Appointments	The President appoints the Prime Minister, Ministers, Governors, Supreme Court and High Court judges, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Army Chiefs, and other officials.	The Prime Minister selects the Council of Ministers and advises the President on key appointments.
Constitutional Amendments	The President approves constitutional amendments passed by Parliament but does not have the power to reject them.	The Prime Minister and the government propose and pass constitutional amendments in Parliament.

3. Role in Parliament and Lawmaking

Aspect	President	Prime Minister
Accountability to Parliament	The President is not directly accountable to Parliament. They primarily act on the advice of the Prime Minister.	The Prime Minister is accountable to the Lok Sabha and must maintain a majority to remain in power.
Approval of Bills	Any bill passed by Parliament requires the President's approval. They can send it back for reconsideration, but if Parliament passes it again, they must approve it.	The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers introduce and support bills in Parliament to get them passed.
Emergency Powers	The President has the authority to impose National Emergency, State Emergency (President's Rule) , and Financial Emergency under constitutional provisions.	The Prime Minister advises the President to declare an emergency and ensures parliamentary approval.

4. Special Privileges and Responsibilities

Aspect	President	Prime Minister
Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces	The President is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force).	The Prime Minister decides defense policies and works with the Defense Minister to implement them.
Political Role	The President is expected to be neutral and does not belong to any political party after being elected.	The Prime Minister is the leader of a political party or coalition and actively participates in politics.
Foreign Policy	The President appoints foreign ambassadors and approves international treaties and agreements .	The Prime Minister formulates foreign policy and represents India in global summits and diplomatic meetings.

5. Conclusion

The President is the ceremonial head, while the Prime Minister is the actual ruler of the country. The President's decisions are mostly based on the advice of the Council of Ministers, whereas the Prime Minister frames and executes policies. The stability of the government depends on the Prime Minister, while the President acts within constitutional limits. Thus, while both positions are crucial, the Prime Minister holds real executive authority and is responsible for governing the country.

Brief Details of the Current President and Prime Minister of India.



1. President: Smt. Droupadi Murmu

Born: June 20, 1958, Mayurbhanj, Odisha

Political Career:

First female Governor of Jharkhand (2015-2021)

Minister in Odisha Government (2000-2004)

Became the 15th President of India in 2022

Special Achievement: First tribal woman to become the President of India



2. Prime Minister: Shri Narendra Modi

Born: September 17, 1950, Vadnagar, Gujarat

Political Career:

Chief Minister of Gujarat (2001-2014)

Sworn in as the 14th Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014

Re-elected as Prime Minister in 2019

Special Achievement: Played a key role in enhancing India's global stature and launched various welfare schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat.



Sheo Vivek

**Assistant Professor,
Political Science, Shershah
College, Sasaram, District –
Rohtas, Bihar**